Maine Maritime Museum Library
243 Washington Street
Bath, Maine 04530-1638
(207) 443-1316, ext. 328, 336

Inventory
for
Manuscript Collection
MS-504

William Murphy Collection

Inclusive dates: 1880-1907
Bulk dates: 1880 to 1888

by
Tracy Lamaestra
(edited by Anastasia Weigle)

March 2012

Shelf feet: 1.5
Number of boxes: 1
Accession # 2008.053.3.82

Cataloged as part of the Merchant Mariners Muster Project, funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation through the Council on Library and Information Resources

COPYRIGHT RESTRICTION

The material described herein is the physical property of the Maine Maritime Museum Library. **Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or the various items, or to their legal representatives, or to Maine Maritime Museum.** For further information, consult the library staff.

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted materials.

Under certain conditions specified in the law, libraries and archives are authorized to furnish a photocopy or other reproduction. One of these specified conditions is that the photocopy or reproduction is not to be *"used for any purpose other than private study, scholarship or research."* If a user later uses a photocopy or reproduction for purposes in excess of "fair use," that user may be liable for copyright infringement.

This institution reserves the right to refuse to accept a copying order if fulfillment of the order is judged to be in violation of copyright law.

It is the user's responsibility to understand the copyright law concerning the use of the historical documents contained in this library.

Copyright © 2012 by the Maine Maritime Museum

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form, or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior permission of the Maine Maritime Museum Library.

Abstract

Murphy, William (Shipping agent)

Collection, 1880-1907 (Bulk dates 1880-1888**)**

1 horizontal box

Shipping agent of Boston, Massachusetts.

Seamen's book recording each vessel sailing including the master's name, hailing port and destination, as well as the seamen hired with their stations and wages. William Murphy's office was located at 19 Doane Street in Boston. The collection also contains loose papers such as correspondence, seaman's allotment notes, a receipt, and a small index booklet.

Donated by Charles E. Burden, October 2008.

MS-504, acc. no. 2008.053.3.82

Finding aid in repository: folder and item level control.

Added Entries—Persons

Murphy, William (Shipping agent)

Added entries—key terms

Barks (Sailing ships)

Crew lists [not LC]

Merchant mariners

Schooners

Seamanship

Ship captains

Ships

Wages

Acquisition

Donated to the Maine Maritime Museum from Charles E. Burden on October 27, 2008, acc. no. 2008.053.3.82

Provenance

The William Murphy collection was part of a larger maritime collection donated by Charles E. Burden. The donor purchased this particular item from Richard A. Bourne Co. of Hyannisin 2008. It is not known where or how the auctioneer acquired the book.

Restrictions

There are no restrictions on the use of these materials for study or research.

Physical Condition

The seamen book is leather bound with raised cords. It has been covered in sailcloth. The bind is very tight and clean. A corner piece is missing from one of the index pages. The cover and several pages have stains. The writing is legible. Miscellaneous loose papers found in the book have creases and/or folds. Overall, the book's binding is tight and sound.

Biographical Notes

William Murphy was born about 1855 in England. He was married to Maggie Murphy and worked as a ship clerk in Boston around 1880. However, he has identified as a Shipping Agent in a 1906 receipt found in this collection. In a 1905 Boston directory, William Murphy is listed as a shipping agent located at 19 Doane Street, Room 8. He lived on Winthrop in Boston at this time as well. William Murphy may have very well begun as a shipping clerk or a clerk for another shipping agent in the 1880's and became a shipping agent himself later.

William Murphy kept records of vessels, hailing ports, ports of destination, captains, seamen, wages, advances and voyages in seamen books as a ship clerk. He issued allotment notes and receipts for advances or wages to seamen regarding voyages.

Unfortunately, there is very little information about William Murphy other than the most basic biographical information acquired through genealogical resources and directories. It is very difficult to sort him out from all the other William Murphys in Boston at the time.

References cited:

1. "Boston Streets: Mapping Directory Data." http:// bcd.lib.tufts.edu. 16 March 2012.
2. http://search.ancestry.com 15 March 2012.

Scope and Content Notes

The sailcloth-covered seamen's book lists over 700 vessels with 1,300 entries dating October 2, 1880 to March 6, 1888. An alphabetized index with vessel name, type and page numbers are listed at the beginning of the seamen's book. Vessels listed are schooners, ships, barks, brigs and steamships. However the index is not as thorough as we initially thought. The British screw steamer *Flavian* is not listed in the index but appears on page 26 showing twenty-eight crewmen aboard bound from Boston to Liverpool on April 1, 1881.

Although the collection is named after William Murphy, the seamen's book does not bear his name or any other shiping agent. The book is assumed to be Murphy's because of loose papers found in it bearing Murphy's name from the early 19000s. Boston City Directories of the 1880's do not list Murphy as a shipping agent, however.

Each page has headings for station, name of seaman, wages, residence and advance followed by documentation in each specific category. Master's names as well as hailing ports and ports of destination are also noted.

Loose documents were found inside the seamen book consisting of five Seaman's Allotment Notes for the steamship *Indiana* and four-mast ship *King's County*. There is also a receipt for advance wages for a seaman who went to sea in an Italian ship. This receipt identified William Murphy as a shipping agent.

Noted interested is a letter dated June 2, 1906 to William Murphy from U. S. Naval Torpedo Station, General Storekeeper, Joseph Haymaker, to arrange for a vessel to pick up and delivery a shipment of gun cotton.

Lastly, a small daybook found in the Seamen's book appears to be an index with vessel names and pages. However, the names and page numbers do not match the Seamen's book.

Processing Notes

Minimal processing was required for this collection. Loose papers found in the book were removed, sleeved in Melinex and placed in an acid free folder. The seamen book is housed in a horizontal box. The folder is placed in the box with the book.

MS-504 William Murphy Shipping Agent Collection Container List

Box#	Folder#	
1	—	Shipping Agent Seamen Book, 1880-1888
	1	• Small daybook, index of vessel names, Index Booklet, [1902]
		• Correspondence**,** U. S. Naval Torpedo Station, Joseph Haymaker, General Storekeeper to William Murphy, June 2, 1906 (accompanying envelopes)
		• Four (4) Seaman's allotment, *Kings County* (Four-mast ship), Feb. 1906
		• One (1) Seaman's allotment, *Indiana* (Screw steamer), Nov. 1906
		• One (1) receipt for advanced wages (Italian ship), Sept. 1907